

Message Text

SECRET

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P 301830Z JUN 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

S E C R E T STATE 153724

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MASS, MMOL, EAIR, US, IT

SUBJECT: US INTEREST IN ITALIAN DEVELOPED ANTI TANK
HELICOPTER

RE ROME 5951

FROM OASD/DDR&E

STOCKHOLM AND BONN PASS TO MR. BASIL AND DR. CURRIE

1. YOUR ABOVE REFERENCED MESSAGE IS APPRECIATED. IT IS A
CLEAR EXPOSITION OF A COMPLICATED SITUATION. WE HAVE BEEN
FOLLOWING THE A129 MATTER NOW FOR ABOUT A YEAR. IT IS ONE
OF THE PROJECTS IN ITALY IN WHICH DOD COULD HAVE A POTENTIAL
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INTEREST. OUR ACTIONS, AT THE PRESENT TIME, ARE CONSTRAINED

BY THE ITALO-GERMAN SITUATION ON THE BO. 115/3 OR/4. DR. CURRIE, DDR&E, WILL BE IN BONN ON JUNE 25 FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH MOD OFFICIALS AND POSSIBLE AMERICAN INTEREST IN THE ITALIAN HELICOPTER WILL BE CAREFULLY SURFACED. THE US POSITION MAY BE AFFECTED BY THE GERMAN REACTION. A FINAL DOD POSITION ON THIS ISSUE WILL REQUIRE AN ADDITIONAL 3-4 WEEKS OF REVIEW.

2. WE FULLY APPRECIATE THE POTENTIAL APPLICATION OF THE

A129 TO SATISFY POSSIBLE REQUIREMENTS IN THE US ARMED FORCES, AND WE ARE EQUALLY AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF OTHER US INTERESTS INVOLVED IN THIS SITUATION (PROTECTING WHAT MAY AMOUNT TO SEVERAL HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES ECONOMY IF THE A129 WERE TO BE CHOSEN BY ITALY OVER THE BO.115.) INGERSOLL

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